Distr.
LIMITED

UNIDO/CPE.12
16 July 1985

ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

Fourth Round of Discussions with the
National Committees for UNIDO
Vienna, Austria, 21 - 24 May 1985

REPORT *

Prepared by the UNIDO secretariat

* This document has been reproduced without formal editing.

V.85-29164

CONTENTS

		Page
I.	Background and Introduction	1
II.	Organization of the Meeting	1
III.	Structure, Role and Functions of the National Committees for UNIDO	2
IV.	Activities of the National Committees participating in the meeting	3
V.	Suggestions made to involve the National Committees for UNIDO with	6
	a. Technical co-operation programme of UNIDO	6
	b. Other programmes and activities	7
VI.	Closure of the Meeting	7

ANNEXES

I. List of Participants

II. Names of Senior Officers and Subjects of their Presentation

I. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

The Fourth Round of Discussions with the National Committees for UNIDO, held in Vienna from 21 - 24 May 1985, was organized by the Governments and Intergovernmental Organizations Relations Section, in direct response to one of the recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting of December 1981. * The purpose of these discussions was to thoroughly brief the participating National Committees on specific UNIDO programmes and activities, to encourage them to become more involved in UNIDO activities and to seek their assistance in realizing UNIDO's mandate on the national level in a more effective way. Moreover, it was to allow an exchange of experience between representatives and to facilitate discussion on problems experienced by the Committees in the discharge of their functions.

The first three rounds of these discussions were held in May 1982, 1983 and 1984. They resulted in re-igniting the interest of countries in the possibilities inherent in having active National Committees. As a consequence, several National Committees were re-activated and new ones established.

II. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

Invitations were extended to National Committees which had still not participated in these annual meetings as well as to those which had only recently been established. The participating National Committees were from the Central African Republic, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Kenya, Nepal, Niger and Yemen Arab Republic. In addition, representatives from the Permanent Missions or from the delegations to the Nineteenth Session of the Industrial Development Board of Colombia, Iran, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman and Sierra Leone also attended part of the meeting. A list of participants is attached as Annex I.

The Acting Head of the Governments and Intergovernmental Organizations Relations Section welcomed the participants on behalf of the Executive Director. He briefly touched upon the composition, role and functions of an active National Committee for UNIDO and stated his conviction that an active National Committee could become a real asset to its country. To illustrate his belief, he enumerated some of the activities being organized by these Committees in their countries. He concluded by presenting the programmes prepared by the Secretariat for the National Committee representatives.

During the course of the meeting, Deputy Directors as well as Heads/Chiefs of those Branches/Sections, of interest to the National Committees, presented their programmes effectively, which was greatly appreciated by the participants. Invariably, all appealed to the National Committees for their assistance so that UNIDO could act in a still more effective manner. In addition, the participants saw a film on UNIDO activities, attended a condensed workshop on preparation of a project document, and participated in a COMFAR demonstration (Computer Model for Feasibility Analysis and Reporting). Finally, they had individual meetings with officials backstopping UNIDO programme in their country. A list of the officials who addressed the meeting and the subject of their statements is included in Annex II.

---

* UNIDO/CPE. 2

The participants paid a courtesy visit to the Executive Director of UNIDO, Dr. Abd-El Rahman Khane. He bid them welcome and expressed his hope that the intensive briefing on UNIDO programmes and activities which they had received would help the National Committees in becoming more actively aware of the possibilities offered to the developing countries by this Organization. In addition to the technical co-operation programme of UNIDO, special programmes like the System of Consultations, Transfer of Technology and the Industrial Studies were available to serve the developing countries. He concluded by appealing to the Committees to assist in the industrialization drive of their countries by utilizing, in a more effective manner, the expertise available in UNIDO.

III. STRUCTURE, ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEES FOR UNIDO

The following pertinent points were raised during a discussion of the above subject with the National Committee participants:

a) The decision to create a National Committee for UNIDO remained exclusively with the Governments. UNIDO Secretariat would co-operate in their establishment, if so requested. However, before a Committee was established or re-activated, the question whether such a Committee was really needed should receive careful consideration.

b) The composition of the Committee was to be adapted to the structure of the country's economic administration which would vary from country to country. Those departments or institutions which were really involved in the industrialization of the country should be represented in it. Still, it might be advisable to avoid a too cumbersome structure.

c) A very important component of the National Committee was its secretariat. The secretariat was to take care of the day-to-day work, correspondence, contacts, distribution of documents received from UNIDO and particularly to promote the implementation of the decisions taken by the plenary of the Committee. The necessity of having a full-time staff would have to be decided upon according to the volume of work. In this connection, the representative of the National Committee in Yemen Arab Republic stated that without a secretariat it was impossible for the Committee to function, while the representative of the Committee in Niger found that it would be difficult for his Government to allocate finances for the Committee due to the country's serious economic condition.

d) Another important aspect was the participation of the private sector. In those countries where this sector existed, its participation in the Committee could, inter alia, give rise to a dialogue between the Government and the sector.

e). The functions of the National Committees varied from country to country. But, basically, they could be divided into three major areas: advisory, informative and co-ordinating. i) The National Committee should at the Government's request, or at its own initiative, be able to provide advice on questions related to the various aspects of industrialization of the country; ii) The National Committee should disseminate information on UNIDO structure, programmes and activities to the Government departments and to the interested public. In fact, it should be the main source of information on UNIDO;

iii) The Government might wish to entrust the Committee with co-ordinating functions in matters related to co-operation with UNIDO. For example, the National Committees in certain African countries have been called upon to perform the functions of the National Co-ordinating Committees for the Decade.

f) The problems faced by the National Committees, according to the Secretariat, were as follows: i) In many cases, no financial resources were allocated to enable the functioning of the Committees; ii) Services of National Committees could not be utilized, as in many countries they were unknown to the public at large and even to Government institutions; iii) Lack of personnel assigned to perform the day-to-day activities of the Committee; iv) The National Committee members were unaware of the aims of their Committees as well as the structure, programmes and activities of UNIDO; v) Lack of contact between the National Committees and UNIDO Secretariat.

IV. ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEES PARTICIPATING IN THE MEETING

Efforts were being made to re-activate the National Committee for UNIDO in the Central African Republic, which had been established in 1971, but which has not been functioning as desired. The legal basis of this Committee consisted of a few articles which created the Committee and determined its composition, indicated its competence and described its characteristics but which did not give specific details about its functions. The revitalised Committee would be more viable and dynamic and a work programme would be worked out from the beginning. The problems faced by the Committee were insufficient knowledge about the role of the Committee and constant change of personnel. The National Committees for UNESCO and ACCT were, in comparison to this Committee, functioning very well and a Ministerial meeting would be held in the near future to resolve these problems.

The National Committee for UNIDO in Colombia held its first meeting in March 1983. Since then it has not met. Possibly, another meeting has not been convened again because of the number and rank of its members. Efforts will be made to revive the activities of this Committee. In the view of the representative from Colombia, the number of members of the Committee should be drastically reduced and it should be given co-ordinating functions. Representatives to this Committee should be from the National Planning Department, the Ministry of Development and the National Association of Industries.

The Czechoslovak Committee of Co-operation with UNIDO, established in 1969, assists in developing contacts between UNIDO and respective CSSR institutions and bodies in the implementation of CSSR co-operation with UNIDO. The Chairman of the Committee is Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and its Vice-Chairman the Deputy Chairman of the State Planning Commission. Its members are Directors of international departments from 13 Ministries. Every member of the Committee is responsible for his field of competence and reports to the Committee. The Committee establishes an ad hoc working group if necessary. It has about two to three annual sessions. The Committee has the following functions. It

- considers proposals concerning long-term approach to UNIDO and considers and reviews annual plans concerning relations between CSSR and UNIDO;

- assists in the preparation of CSSR participation in UNIDO General Conferences, sessions of the Industrial Development Board, meetings of the Permanent Committee or in other UNIDO meetings;

- reviews reports of the CSSR delegations regarding their participation in UNIDO meetings and makes recommendations to utilise the results of such meetings;

- co-ordinates contacts of the respective CSSR bodies, institutions and organizations with UNIDO. Special attention is paid to activities which contribute to the implementation of UNIDO technical assistance in developing countries.

In 1978, the Government of CSSR and UNIDO established a Joint Programme for International Co-operation in the field of ceramics, building materials and non-metallic minerals based industries which is primarily directed to co-operation with institutions in the developing countries. Recently, energy management has also been added to this Joint Programme.

The National Committee for UNIDO in Kenya was established in 1984 and it comprises representatives from various Government Ministries and Institutions which are involved in the industrial development of Kenya. As Kenya has a mixed economy, the private sector is represented through the Kenya Association of Manufacturers. Its main achievement until the present was preparatory work for the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO in August 1984. In future, the National Committee will become more practically oriented and involved.

The Nepal National Committee for UNIDO was constituted in 1979 having the following objectives:

- to serve as a forum for discussing measures to promote industrial development;

- to discuss problems of establishing new industries and operating existing industries efficiently;

- to assist the Government in long and short-term planning for development of industry;

- to advise on industrial policy legislation, research and standardization; various aspects on UNIDO activities; and on any matters relevant to industrial development and co-operation with UNIDO;

- to review industrial performance and identify areas where assistance is required;

- to assess assistance required from UNIDO in specific industries or sectors of industries;

- to promote and facilitate close contacts between UNIDO and industrial enterprises in public and private sectors.

The National Committee has 15 members, the Chairman being the Director General of the Department of Industries. The members are from various Government Ministries, semi-Government agencies as well as from private associations.

The Nepal National Committee arranged informal discussions on the industrial manpower requirement of Nepal and prepared a report for the Sixth Five-Year Plan (1980-85) which was submitted to the Government and to UNIDO. However, since then the Committee has not remained so active. As various small Committees had to be established in the meantime to deal with specific problems, the National Committee for UNIDO faces the difficult task of obtaining financial resources and of establishing some sort of co-ordination between the various specialized committees.

The National Committee for UNIDO in Niger has been established very recently, in March 1985, at a time when the country is passing through a very serious economic condition due to persistent drought and increasing recession. The Chairman of the Committee is the Director of Industry and Handicraft, and the two Vice-Chairmen are the Head of Planning Services and the Director of Domestic Trade. The National Committee wishes to receive assistance from UNIDO to enable it to function properly.

The National Committee for UNIDO in Yemen Arab Republic has been established in February 1985 and it has the following purposes:

- to strengthen and support the major role of co-ordinating the activities of the United Nations in the field of industrial development with those of UNIDO;
- to offer advice to the Government and UNIDO on aspects of industrialization, planning and programming in the country, in conformity with the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action;
- to review industrial performance and determine the areas which require aid and assistance;
- to offer advice to the State on relevant legislation, aspects of industrial policy, training research and other areas where co-operation with other States will be necessary or desirable;
- to determine the assistance required from UNIDO for industries or industrial sectors singled out by the State;
- to advise the Government on activities of UNIDO and other matters relating to industrial development and to co-operate with UNIDO;
- to seek to develop and facilitate close links between UNIDO and the public, private and mixed sectors.

The National Committee is headed by the Minister of Economy and Industry who will be the Chairman of the Committee. It will also have four Vice-Chairmen and members from the Ministries of Supply and Commerce, Agriculture and Fishery Resources, Foreign Affairs, Economy and Industry as well as from the General Union of Domestic Co-operation, Yemen Investment and Finance Company, etc. The Committee would have a permanent secretariat and would form working groups for specialised tasks.

The National Committee would provide access to national bodies, institutions and organizations for broadening and deepening their participation in UNIDO activities, thus tackling socio-economic problems bearing upon industrial development.

V. SUGGESTIONS MADE TO INVOLVE NATIONAL COMMITTEES IN UNIDO ACTIVITIES

a. Technical Co-operation Programme of UNIDO

i) Project Design and Implementation

- National Committees could assess the economic environment of the country and provide advice and guidance to those engaged in project design;
- As at times the private sector is the end-user of UNIDO projects in several countries and as the private sector is also represented in many National Committees it would be advantageous in such a case to involve this sector in project design and implementation from an early stage;
- National Committees could assist in the implementation of projects, if the Government so desired, by providing or arranging counterpart facilities.

ii) Recruitment and Briefing of Experts

- National Committees could assist the Secretariat by identifying experts for UNIDO projects, thus enlarging the roster, so that these experts could be contacted if the need arose;
- In order to quicken the implementation of a project, the National Committees could expedite the response of the Government regarding the suitability of the expert provided by the Secretariat;
- The National Committees could brief the experts arriving in the country on the national customs, way of life and economic aspects in order to help them weather the cultural shock.

iii) Industrial Training

- National Committees could assess the possibilities of establishing or strengthening training associations in the country;
- National Committees could elicit the interest of industry, industrial circles and institutions in the group training programmes;
- National Committees could provide UNIDO with a list of national experts in training, managers, engineers or training specialists to be utilized in projects in the country or by UNIDO;
- To facilitate the exchange of experience between training experts, UNIDO could organize fora;
- National Committees could examine the possibility for establishing national placement agencies for fellows from other developing countries;
- Finally, National Committees could bring to the attention of UNIDO provisions made for the development of human resources in the industrial plans of their countries;

- They could also keep UNIDO informed as to whether manpower assessments existed on a sectoral basis and whether any legislation on training existed in the country;

- UNIDO could establish a network of training specialists so that the flow of information could continue without interruption.

b. Other Programmes and Activities

- The Division for Industrial Studies would appreciate having very close contact with the National Committees for UNIDO. Any feedback on studies originating in the Division as well as any requests on specific economic analyses would be welcome.

- As until now only private firms were utilizing the services of the Industrial Information Section, the National Committees could recommend to Government institutions to make full use of these services as well.

- The National Committees requested that printouts of UNIDO technical assistance financed through the United Nations Development Programme and other sources be circulated to them for consideration of policy-makers in their countries.

- In order to circumvent the problem of delay in receiving vacancy notices for the Secretariat, the National Committees could request interested applicants to complete the standard form for consideration by the Secretariat.

- In Africa, the National Committees could assist in achieving the objectives of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa by assuming the functions of the National Co-ordinating Committees through a slight modification of their functions. They could mobilise the entire workforce, the productive sectors, universities, Chambers of Commerce, the business community, the public and private enterprises as well as the Ministries of Industry, Agriculture, Transport, etc. in order to recommend to decision-makers what new directions be taken with regard to industrialization in the country. They could provide for a flow of information and act as UNIDO's spokesmen to the business community. They could as well co-operate with other National Committees.

VI. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The representatives of the National Committees participating in the Fourth Round of Discussions with the National Committees for UNIDO were very appreciative of the thorough briefing they received on UNIDO programmes and activities. They invariably demonstrated their readiness to make their Committees more effective instruments for the industrialization of their countries. The Kenyan delegate suggested that seminars for project design be organized on a sub-regional level so that more countries could participate. The same delegate also requested that for UNIDO assistance to be particularly effective, care should be taken that it remained always practical and action-oriented. The Czechoslovak representative remarked on this occasion that his Government was ready to develop co-operation with developing countries in elaboration and implementation of their national energy programmes. The same delegate also recommended that for future meetings the representatives receive a short abstract on every subject to permit them to better benefit from these discussions.

ANNEX I

List of Participants

Central African Republic:	Mr. Jacques Djolo, Special Assistant for International Economic Affairs; Representative, National Committee for UNIDO in Central African Republic
Colombia:	Mr. Juan Pablo Cabal, Chief, Industrial Policy Division; Representative, National Committee for UNIDO in Colombia
Czechoslovakia:	Mr. Vladimir Socha, Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Representative, Czechoslovak National Committee for UNIDO
Kenya:	Mrs. S. Alambo, Principal Project Officer, Ministry for Commerce and Industry; Secretary General, National Committee for UNIDO
Nepal:	Mr. R.B. Bhattarai, Director General, Department of Industries; Chairman, National Committee for UNIDO in Nepal
Niger:	Mr. Ibrahim Foukori, Director of Industry Chairman, National Committee for UNIDO in Niger
Yemen Arab Republic:	Mr. Mohamed Al-Hammami, Personal Adviser to the Minister of Industry, Head of External Relations Department, Ministry of Industry; Representative, National Committee for UNIDO in Yemen Arab Republic

Representatives from the Permanent Missions/delegation to IDB participating in this meeting

Colombia

Iran

Kuwait

Lebanon

Oman

Sierra Leone

ANNEX II

LIST OF SENIOR UNIDO OFFICIALS WHO MADE STATEMENTS ON SPECIFIC SUBJECTS

Title of Official	Subject of Statement
Mr. K. Ahmed, Deputy Director Division of Administration	Personnel Recruitment
Mr. S. Hable-Selassie, Deputy Director, Division of Industrial Operations	UNIDO's Technical Assistance Programme
Ms. I. Lorenzo, Head, Training Branch	Role of National Committees in the Development of Human Resources for Industry
Mr. V. Podshibyakin, Head, Industrial Information Section	Industrial Information
Mr. H.W. Tanaka, Head, Development and Transfer of Technology Branch	Development and Transfer of Technology
Mr. H. Khouadja, Acting Head, Governments and Intergovernmental Organizations Relations Section	Introduction
Mr. H. Muegge, Acting Head, Regional and Country Studies Branch	Country and Regional Studies
Mr. M. Abdelmoneim, Chief, Industrial Finance Unit, Investment Co-operative Programme Branch	Investment Co-operative Programme
Mr. M. Janjic, Chief, Non-Governmental Organizations Section	Non-Governmental Organizations
Mr. S. Ndam, Chief, Coordination Unit for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa	Industrial Development Decade for Africa
Mr. H.K. Rahim, Chief, Interregional and Global Unit, Programme Development and Evaluation Branch	Programme Exercise/ Programming Cycle/ Source of Funds
Mr. Z. Song, Chief, Section for Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries	Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries
Mr. C. Winkelmann, Officer-in-Charge, Project Personnel Recruitment Section	Project Personnel Recruitment
Mr. J. Cabrera, Senior Industrial Development Officer, Programme Development and Evaluation Branch	Discussion on specific country operational activities

Title of Official	Subject of Statement
Mr. V. Richardson, Senior Industrial Development Officer, Negotiations Branch	System of Consultations
Mr. F. de Figueiredo, Special Assistant to the Director, Division of Conference Services, Public Information and External Relations	Structure and Functions of National Committees
Mr. M. Al-Hafedh, Industrial Development Officer, Least Developed Countries Section	Discussion on specific country operational activities
Mr. S. Gardelliano, Industrial Development Officer, Training Branch	Role of National Committees in the Development of Human Resources for Industry
Mr. H.H. Heep, Industrial Development Officer, Programme Development and Evaluation Branch	Preparation of Project Document
Mr. R. Kabwa, Industrial Development Officer, Least Developed Countries Section	Discussion on specific country operational activities
Ms. M.A. Martin, Industrial Development Officer, Coordination Unit for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa	Industrial Development Decade for Africa
Ms. G. Roces, Industrial Development Officer, Programme Development and Evaluation Branch	Discussion on specific country operational activities
Mr. G.P. Roz, Recruitment Officer, Secretariat Recruitment Section	Personnel Recruitment
Mr. W. Weeks, Industrial Development Officer, Sectoral Studies Branch	Sectoral Studies
Mr. A. Zeweri, Industrial Development Officer, Least Developed Countries Section	Discussion on specific country operational activities
Mr. P. Hawranek, Systems Analyst, Feasibility Studies Branch	COMFAR Demonstration
Mr. K. Billand, Associate Industrial Development Officer, Programme Development and Evaluation Branch	Discussion on specific country operational activities
Mr. B. Diallo, Associate Industrial Development Officer, Least Developed Countries Section	Discussion on specific country operational activities